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Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 212002

FOR AMB YOUNG FROM UNA

FOL RPT BRAZZAVILLE 1184 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO KINSHASA, PARIS, LIBREVILLE, YAOUNDE, ACCRA & LOME DTD 18 AUG 78

QUOTE: C O N F I D E N T I A L BRAZZAVILLE
1184

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, CF
SUBJECT: ALLEGED COUP ATTEMPT

1. WHILE LOCAL DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY DOUBTS WHETHER SITUATION AT HAND IS ANY MORE THAN WHAT IS BEING CHARACTERIZED AS A COUP BY PRESIDENT HIMSELF AGAINST REAL AND IMAGINED RIVALS, YHOMBY-OPANGO IS MOVING AHEAD SWIFTLY TO CONSOLIDATE SUPPORT FOR HIMSELF BY EXPANDING CIRCLE OF ACCUSED AND THREATENING CLOSED DOOR TRIAL BY NEWLY CONSTITUTED COURT OF STATE SECURITY, JUDGMENT OF WHICH WOULD NOT BE SUBJECT TO APPEAL.

2. FOLLOWING MILITARY COMMITTEE MEETING AUGUST 17, SPOKESMAN NAMED THREE NON-CONGOLESE AS "MERCENARIES" INVOLVED IN PLOT.
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THEY ARE PHILIPPE FAVRE, A FRENCHMAN, WORKING FOR PATRICE FINA IN POINTE-NOIRE, APETI MORRISON, ALLEGEDLY CARRYING THREE NATIONALITIES--TOGOLESE, GHANAIAN, AND ZAIRIAN, AND JEAN NKWANE, A GHANAIAN. IN ADDITION TO CALLING FOR GENERAL VIGILANCE, COMMITTEE ADOPTED RESOLUTION CREATING ABOVE MENTIONED COURT AND DECIDED TO LAUNCH CAMPAIGN AGAINST THOSE HOSTIL TO CONGOLESE LABOR PARTY AND GUILTY OF "ECONOMIC SABOTAGE." ALL STATE ENTERPRISES AND

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ADMINISTRATIONS ARE TO BE INVESTIGATED FOR PARTIES GUILTY OF THESE "CRIMES." DOSSIERS INVOLVING ACCUSED WILL BE STUDIED BY INSTITUTIONS AND COMMITTEES THEREOF PRIOR TO BEING FORLARDED TO MINISTERIAL AND GOVERNMENTAL LEVELS. SECURITY SERVICES WILL LOOK INTO PRIVATE ENTERPRISES, AND ALL DOSSIERS MUST BE READY BY OCTOBER 15.

3. ADDED TO LIST OF ACCUSED HAVE BEEN FORMER ARMY CAPTIAN ROBIN WAMBA, OF POINTE-NOIRE, TIMOTHEE KOMBO TOKO AND JULES MAYALA, NONE FURTHER IDENTIFIED.

4. A JOINT MEETING OF SUPPORT FOR YHOMBY-OPANGO WAS HELD AFTERNOON AUGUST 17, GROUPING REPRESENTATIVES OF NATIONAL YOUTH, WOMEN'S AND LABOR MOVEMENTS. AN EFFECTIVE CURFEW IS IN OPERATION IN BRAZZAVILLE, FROM 9 P.M. TO 5 A.M., AND IN POINTE-NOIRE FROM 8P.M. TO 5 A.M.

5. LETTERS OF SUPPORT HAVE BEEN SENT TO YHOMBY-OPANGO FROM LEADERS OF BENIN AND ANGOLA. ON HIS SIDE, YHOMBY HAS DESPATCHED FOREIGN MINISTER OBENGA AND PRESIDENTIAL ADVISOR EKONDY TO GABON TO DESCRIBE CURRENT EVENTS HERE, WHILE SENDING WARM MESSAGE OF CONGRATULATIONS TO BONGO ON OCCASION OF GABON'S NATIONAL DAY. MILITARY COMMITTEE MEMBER EBAKA WAS SENT TO KINSHASA AUGIST 18 TO REASSURE MOBUTU THAT SEIZURE OF "MERCENARY" WITH ONE-THIRD ZAIRIAN NATIONALITY, AND REPORTED CHARGE AT CLOSED PARTY METING AT POINTE-NOIRE AUGUST 17 THAT TWO TO FOUR THOUSAND PORTUGUESE MERCENARIES WERE POISED TO ATTACK CONGO FROM ZAIRE, SHOULD NOT CONFIDENTIAL

ADVERSELY AFFECT GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

6. ZAIRIAN EMBOFF ZULU HAS TOLD US THAT DEPUTY PLANNING MINISTER BITA'S OFFICE WAS RANSACKED BY SECURITY SERVICES AUGUST 16, AND FRENCH CHARGE PAVEC TELLS US THAT FINANCE MINISTER LOPES IS UNDER A CLOUD.

INTERESTINGLY, LAS WEEK EKONDY HAD WONDERED ALOUD WITH CHARGE WHETHER LOPES MIGHT NOT BE BETTER SUITED TO A JOB WITHIN UN SYSTEM THAN AS MINISTER OF FINANCE HERE. MINISTER OF TRANSPORT (AND MMILITARY COMMITTEE MEMBER) MBIA ALSO IS RUMORED BY ENERGY MINISTER ADADA AS BEING VULNERABLE. ADADA HAS TOLD US THAT HE FEARS HIS OWN ADVERSARIES ARE TRYING TO "GET SOMETHING ON HIM AND TAKE AWAY HIS PORTFOLIO." ADADA BELIEVES THAT EVEN SIGNING A CONTRACT WITH A FOREIGN COMPANY WHICH DID NOT MATERIALIZE WOULD BE GOUNDS FOR SUMMARY DISMISSAL.

7. MEANWHILE, RUMORS CIRCULAE THAT AT LEAST THREE OF THOSE INITIALLY DETAINED, MIAKASSISSA, MOUZABAKANI, AND KOLELA, ALREADY ARE DEAD. FURTHER, THAT THEY HAD BEEN FOUND EXCHANGING CORRESPOND-ENCE WITH CONGOLESE DISSIDENTS IN PARIS. ADDITIONALLY, THAT FINA HAD BEEN TAPPED TO BANKROLLING COUP.

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8. CITY OF BRAZZAVILLE REMAINS PLACID. NO EUROPEAN DIPLOMATS HAVE BEEN SUMMONED BY CONGOLESE, AND OUR OWN RELATIONS IN DAILY DEALINGS WITH MINISTERS HAVE BEEN AS RELAXED AS USUAL. KATZEN UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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